Preface

The concern for the viability of freight systems was embedded within the overall goals of a project intended to generate new research on crucial transport issues and involved both European and North American scientists. With funding from the European Union and the National Science Foundation, STELLA (Sustainable Transport in Europe with Linkages and Liaisons with America) and STAR (Sustainable Transport Analysis and Research) were successful over recent years in creating a dialogue among European and North American scholars through a set of focus groups on various themes associated with transport. The essence of this volume is derived in part from major findings from discussions in Focus Group 1 (Globalization, E-Economy and Trade) held at Certosa di Pontignano, Siena (June 2002), Brussels (March 2003) and Washington, DC (January 2004). In addition a topical users and policy forum meeting held in Bologna in June 2004 aided in the development of the volume presented here.

Essentially this focus area noted above was charged with analysing the ways in which the new economy is affecting transport, trade and related activities in North America and Europe in the context of emerging global economic activities, interactions and communications. More specifically the group's activities were intended to address the role of transport and communications in facilitating globalization, particularly in regards to inter-modal freight services, manufacturing processes and logistical solutions to shipping goods; to examine the role of 'e-commerce' and the dynamics of the 'new economy' in this evolutionary globalization/transport process; and to examine the status of policy developments in regards to trade, transport and communications and private sector firms.

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Thomas R Leinbach and Cristina Capineri
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For Marge and Amy and Fiore and Cesare